(a) the details of LPG agencies set up in Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to allot more LPG agencies in the above Constituency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is no agency.

(b) and (c). As per present policy, new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner depending upon the economic viability and product availability, in towns having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census)

ONGC Drilling in Andhra Pradesh

4602. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has undertaken Oil and Natural Gas drilling work at several places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bobbaralanka Unit in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh is not in working condition; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 96 exploratory and two parametric wells have been drilled. 19 prospects have been established as hydrocarbon bearing structures.

(c) No unit (drilling rig) is presently deployed in Bobbaralanka area.

(d) Does not arise.

Central Marine Research Institute in Mandapam (T.N.)

4603. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to further develop the Central Marine Research Institute at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) and (b). Sir. It is proposed to strengthen the infrastructure for research at Mandapam during the 8th Plan for Searanching, Seabass Culture and Cultivation of Seaweeds under controlled conditions subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection of Fishermen in Tamil Nadu

4604. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the fishermen living in the Western Coast of Tamil Nadu to carry on their fishing operation during monsoon season too when they face

difficulties to operate the fishing vessels into the sea;

(b) whether the measures adopted along Kerala sea coast of Vizinjam and Neendakara in this regard are proposed to be provided along the Western Coast of Tamil Nadu too; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). On Western Coast of Tamil Nadu, one fish landing centre at Muttom has been completed. Also a minor fishery harbour is nearing completion at Chinnamuttom which is designed to provide facilities for accommodating 10 Deep Sea Vessels and 240 Mechanised Fishing Vessels, similar to fishery harbours under construction at Vishinjam and Neendakara in Kerala Coast.

Food Scarcity

4605. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consultative Group on Inter-National Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has warned against the possibility of food scarcity in the country in the coming years in view of decreasing productivity of cultivable land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) to (c). Sir, Government of India is not aware of any such warning. In fact, the productivity of cultivable land is not decreasing but is steadily on the increase.

Shortfall of Crude Oil

4606. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likelihood of the Shortfall in supply of crude oil from the U.S.S.R. during the current year; and

(b) the total quantity of crude oil required for consumption in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 51.6 MT during the year 1991-92.

Indians in South Africa

4607. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Indians in South Africa concerned about future" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 24, 1991; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government believe that South African citizens of Indian origin should play a full role as equal citizens in the development of